

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PORT O 00819 141436Z

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ST-01 SY-05 A-01 (ISO) W

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P 141410Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7610

UNCLAS PORT OF SPAIN 0819

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASUP, ASEC, AFSP, TD

SUBJ: CHIEF OF MISSION SEDAN

REF: A. STATE 280785; B. PORT OF SPAIN 2972;

C. STATE 282076.

1. CHIEF OF MISSION SEDAN RECEIVED PORT OF SPAIN ON APRIL 7 WITH NUMEROUS DEFECTS AND 2703 MILES REGISTERED ON THE ODOMETER. EMBASSY AND AMBASSADOR MILLER (DETAILS WERE TELEPHONED HIM WHILE HE WAS IN CINCINNATI LAST DECEMBER) WERE TOLD THIS WAS A NEW VEHICLE (SEE REF A). BRIEFED ON THE VARIOUS USG LIMITATIONS AND PROBLEMS PECULIAR TO RHD VEHICLES, HE WAS NONETHELESS APPREHENSIVE THAT THE DESIGNATED VEHICLE WOULD BE INADEQUATE. NOT ONLY ARE THOSE APPREHENSIONS PROVEN JUSTIFIED BUT AN APPARANTLY USED CAR HAS BEEN RECEIVED. THE MOST ALARMING DEFICIENCY IS LEGROOM SPACE. KNEES ARE CRUSHED TO THE FRONT SEAT BACK AND THE SEATING OF THREE ADULT MALES IN THE BACK SEAT AND MORE THAN TWO IN THE FRONT IS IMPRACTICAL. IT IS HARD TO VISUALIZE A MORE INAPPROPRIATE CHOICE FOR COM SEDAN.

2. THIS RIGHT HAND DRIVE CHEVROLET 350 SEDAN WAS RECEIVED WITH WINDSHIELD WIPERS AND CIGARETTE LIGHTER MISSING, BROKEN KEY IN IGNITION SWITCH, LEFT FRONT ENGINE FREEZE-OUT PLUG OF ENGINE BLOCK MISSING, AN AGED AND UNSERVICEABLE BATTERY, OBVIOUSLY USED UPHOLSTERY AND 2703 KILOMETERS ON THE ODOMETER. IT WAS SHIPPED WITH WATER IN ITS COOLING SYSTEM DESPITE EXTERNAL MARKINGS TO THE CONTRARY. OTHER PROBLEMS MAY BE REVEALED AS UNCLASSIFIED

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THE MECHANIC COMPLETES HIS EXAMINATION. THIS CAR

OBVIOUSLY HAS BEEN EXTENSIVELY USED BEFORE SHIPMENT.

3. LITTLE IMAGINATION IS REQUIRED TO CONCLUDE THAT THIS CAR WAS TRIED OUT BY ANOTHER POST AND, FOR PROBABLY SIMILAR REASONS AS NOTED ABOVE, FOUND DEFICIENT AND PASSED OFF TO US AS A HOT POTATO. IF TRUE, WE FIND SANCTIONING SUCH MISREPRESENTATION UNCONSCIONABLE.

4. PORT OF SPAINN SHOULD NOT BE REQUIRED TO ACCEPT THIS CAR NOR SHOULD POST BE REQUIRED TO CHOOSE BETWEEN UNDESIRABLE TIME FRAMES OR UNSUITABLE VEHICLES. FOR MAINTENANCE REASONS, THE PRESENT DODGE PHOENIX MUST BE REPLACED NOW. IT WAS STRIPPED OF ITS RADIO AND A BUYER AWAITS. PERHAPS PORT OF SPAIN'S EFFORT TO RECOGNIZE THE SPECIAL LIMITATIONS THE DEPARTMENT HAS TO OPERATE UNDER WITH RHD VEHICLES HAS CREATED THE IMPRESSION THAT ANY VEHICLE WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE. IF SO, THIS CHIEF OF MISSION HAS BEEN ILL-SERVED.
MILLER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PORTO00819
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750130-0055
From: PORT OF SPAIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750453/aaaabwue.tel
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Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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